

The Southwester

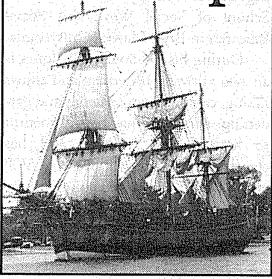
A Monthly Non-Profit Publication of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly

June 1998

SERVING SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON, D.C.

FREE!

Tall Ships



An Australian tallship that is a replica of Captain Cook's tall ship - Endeavor was at the 23rd Blessing of the Fleet.

Funding Needed for The Southwester

by Carole Early

This will be the last month for The Southwester until there is funding for another issue. The cost for desktop publishing, printing, distribution, costs for the advertising chair, and the computer typist bring the costs to about \$2500.00 per issue. Advertising pays for a part of this. Revenue is needed to make up the balance. The SWNA is looking into funding ideas to cover this.

We feel that it is important for the community that we continue the printing of the paper. Does the community feel the same need? The paper supplies us with information about ULI, our school students, Waterside Mall, new construction in Southwest, news about SWNA and its meetings, training programs and workshops, theater and book reviews, AARP news, election news, police news, Club-4 events, community leaders, advertisements from local

continued on page 5

Series 2

Look inside! The Southwester is proud to present a special insert...Southwest closer than you think! What the Urban Land Institute said: A report to the citizens of Southwest Washington from the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly. Here's an early opportunity for the citizens of southwest to know discuss and decide which recommendations of the Urban Land Institute are appropriate for our community. It's your chance to get a "heads up" on the full ULI report scheduled to be out later this summer. SO—Read All About It...and tell us what you think!

SWNA Meets in Old Vat Room

(Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Community Meeting - May 4, 1998)

by Davie Renshaw

It was an exciting night for members of the Southwest community who enthusiastically crowded into the Old Vat Room of Arena Stage for the SWNA meeting. More than 200 residents in a congratulatory mood turned out to celebrate their effort that brought the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Panel to Southwest.

SWNA President, Margaret Feldman, called the meeting to order and introduced Mercedes Sandoval-Beene and Judith Chayes Neiman, Waterside Mall/Waterfront Task Force Co-Chairs. The SWNA voted unanimously to approve their appointment.

Council Member Ambrose Spoke

Attending officials were introduced, among whom was Sharon Ambrose, City Councilmember for Ward 6. Councilwoman Ambrose congratulated the Southwest community for its persistence in refusing to allow the deterioration of the mall and the neighborhood. She pledged Ward 6's cooperation in a mutual effort to develop the waterfront and expansion of the Navy Yard which projects bringing more than 4,000 workers to the Southeast and Southwest.

continued on page 3

Making Our Votes Count

by Grace Savage

The D.C. League of Women Voters (in collaboration with other organizations such as the American Association of Retired Persons, the American Association of University Women, and other such organizations has been working on "Making Our Vote Count for a Better City." How can we be a force in revitalizing our city? Voter turnout is a major indicator of how much a community member cares about the issues affecting him and his community.

Why vote when the Control Board is running the District? Congressional action has not reduced the D.C. City Council's Home Rule powers and responsibilities, although the Control Board has to approve leg-

continued on page 5

"Stars of the Future"

Showcases S.W. Students



The Jefferson Jr. jazz band played at "Stars of the Future" at St. Augustine's Church.

Music, poetry and art by S.W. students were featured at the second annual "Stars of the Future" sponsored by the Youth Activities Task Force May 17. ■



There will not be a Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Meeting at the end of May. The next meeting will be June 29 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthew's Church, 222 M St., S.W. The subject will be schools. The Board meets June 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the SWNA office in Waterfront Mall (in the former Prompt Care).

Local Police Unit Has New Commander

by Barbara Ehrlich

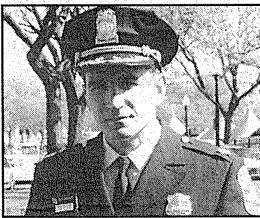
William P. McManus became commander of the First Precinct of the Metropolitan Police Department in February of this year, bringing an impressive 23 years of fine service with him.

"In the First District, my focus will target four different areas: professionalism, accountability, courtesy, and a level of service greater than anyone in this community expects," says McManus. He encourages active participation from the citizenry, stating, "I welcome calls from citizens at telephone number 727-4586. And my door is open at all times. Come over to 415 4th Street, SW, and get acquainted. And be sure to put the First District Citizens' Advisory Committee meetings (7 p.m. the first Tuesday of every month) on your calendar!"

Commander McManus joined the department in 1975 as a patrolman. In 1981, after being promoted to sergeant, he was assigned to our community for several years, becoming an integral part of its fabric and attending a variety of meetings.

For the last eighteen months, Commander McManus was captain of Sector 2 in Precinct 1D1, our next-door neighbor on Capitol Hill.

We welcome Commander McManus and encourage everyone's active participation with him and his staff. ■



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Calendar

May-June 1998

June 1	Monday	Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Board 7pm SWNA Office, Waterside Mall 401 M St. SW
June 6	Saturday	Komen Toastmasters Club 10am Southwest Branch Library Wesley Place and K Street SW
June 8	Monday	Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D 7:30pm Westminster Presbyterian Church 400 Eye St. SW
June 9	Tuesday	Fil-Am Toastmasters Club 6:45pm Southwest Branch Library Wesley Place and K Street SW
June 10	Wednesday	AARP SW Waterfront Chapter #4751 Dinner Theater at the West End Theatre (Call 202-554-5503 for details)
June 15	Monday	First District MPD Citizens Advisory Council - Special Town Hall meeting with Chief Ramsey
June 17	Wednesday	Committee Meeting 7pm Hear Bidder's Proposals for Randall Use, Randall School, on I St. Near Delaware Ave.
June 18	Thursday	Southwest Community House Anniversary Celebration 6:30pm Crystal Ballroom, Officers Club I St. NW, P Street and 3rd, SW
June 20	Saturday	Komen Toastmasters Club 10am Southwest Branch Library Wesley Place and K Street SW
June 23	Tuesday	Fil-Am Toastmasters Club 6:45pm Southwest Branch Library Wesley Place and K Street SW
June 29	Monday	Southwest Neighborhood Assembly General Meeting, 7pm St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 222 M St. SW

Please submit calendar items to C.W. Hargrave by the first of each month.
202-554-8284.

Look for the new Safeway Grand Opening — Saturday later in June.

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6 inches = \$90

7 inches = \$105

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The Southwester

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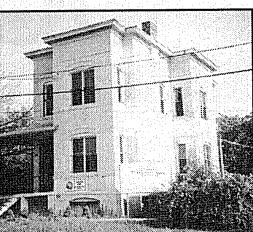
Jeanne MacKenzie Southwester Board
Beryl Rice Southwester Board
Karen Finkel Desktop Publisher
C.W. Hargrave Calendar
Sherry Klein Computer Expert

Drop off your stories on diskette with photo by Sept. 9, in the box behind the counter at the SW Library, 3rd & I SW.

Email text to: sherrykd@idt.net

Printing by Silver Communications Corp.

The objective of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, a.k.a. SWNA is: to improve the quality of life for all residents of the Southwest; to open to every Southwest resident the wide cultural horizon of modern urban living; to help create rich and equal social, educational and economic opportunities for every boy and girl of the Southwest; to assist in providing the opportunity for gainful employment for every adult resident; to promote development of the aesthetic potential of the Southwest. These objectives shall be pursued without regard to the social, economic and racial barriers that have divided cities in the past.



Southwest Community House Welcomes New Executive Director



Southwest Community House Association, Inc. welcomes the arrival of its new Executive Director, Mr. Peter Jones.

Mr. Jones has spent 15 years as a social worker. During his career he has worn many hats: substance abuse counselor, coordinator of a pilot energy assistance project for seniors, community organizer, and contract monitor of county substance abuse programs. For the last four years, Mr. Jones has managed the day-to-day operations of a leading anti-poverty agency in Prince George's County, MD.

After graduating from high school, Mr. Jones served three years at the Marine Barracks in Southeast Washington. Afterwards, he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion at Temple University, and went on to earn Master's of Social Service and Master's of Law and Social Policy

degrees from the Bryn Mawr Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

During his off hours, Mr. Jones is an avid saltwater fisherman and enjoys hiking, camping, working out and gardening. Mr. Jones has been a mentor to high school students and has chaired committees for two NAACP chapters. His favorite pastime, however, is participating in the raising of his 18 month old son, Aaron.

Mr. Jones is looking forward to strengthening and broadening the services provided by the Southwest Community House, and is eagerly soliciting the energy of the Southwest community in this effort. Residents, federal workers and business persons interested in giving their skills and time to the community are invited to contact him at (202)488-7210, or visit him at the Southwest Community House at 156 Q Street, SW.

3rd Annual 4th Street Neighborhood Group

GIGANTIC YARD SALE

8 Condos/Coops + Area Groups

SATURDAY, JUNE 6 -- 9-3

Both Sides 4th St. SW - M to P

FOOD - FUN - TREASURES - BARGAINS

Participants: Carrollsburg, A Condominium - Carrollsburg Square - Channel Square - Edgewater - River Park Riverside - Tiber Island Condominium - Tiber Island Cooperative -- COME! JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS!

The following are the guidelines for publication in The Southwester:

The paper serves as a community bulletin board as well as a vehicle for news stories. Occasional articles pertinent to the city will be printed. Opinion letters should be written to *Letters to The Editor* column. Contributions written by community residents are welcome. Articles should be well written and answer the five newspaper questions: Who, What, Where, When and How. Ads will be accepted only from paying customers, but may be rejected if the contents are of questionable taste.

The editor makes the final decision as to what appears in the paper.

SWNA contd from page 1**Video on Southwest**

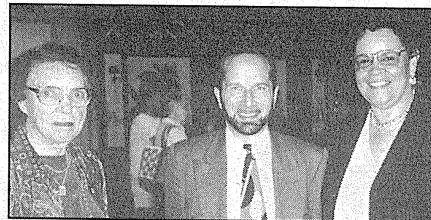
A video, produced by Co-Chairs Sandoval-Beene and Neiman, entitled "Southwest: Our Home, Our Future" was premiered. The written report of the ULI Panel will be available within two months with ample copies for everyone in the community. In the meantime, highlights of the ULI recommendations by Neiman are in this Southwester.

Weiss Describes City Set Up

Former President of the SWNA, Dr. Marc Weiss, spoke. The main issues of his presentation included: The District of Columbia Department of Housing and Community Development (DCHD) is the co-sponsor with the SW community in the creation of the South Capitol Area Task Force as the vehicle to create a new plan for improving the neighborhood; The Task Force will include city-level business people to look at the SW and SE. The Redevelopment Land Agency leases are expiring on the SW waterfront; therefore no long-term commitments will be made before the revitalization efforts are planned; some developers from New York will visit to discuss possible redevelopment of the Waterside Mall and Towers; on May 5 District officials will meet with Washington real estate developer, Herbert Miller, to replan the vision of the Waterside Mall/Waterfront development; and there is a question of whether or not there is a need to create a Southwest Neighborhood Development Corporation as recommended by the ULI panel, since the National Capital Revitalization Corporation, sponsored by Councilmember Charlene Drew Jarvis, may soon be operating with sufficient powers to do the job that is needed in Southwest.

Phone Numbers to Call

Questions and discussion from the floor covered a number of issues and concerns. From a community perspective, conversion of Waterside Mall Towers to residential housing could serve the interests of the community. The mall was originally intended as a Town Center rather than a federal government facility. The time frame for such development is at least 8 years, though GSA/EPA's vacating of one Tower first would expedite the process. Anyone in



At the Old Vat Room-SWNA President Margaret Feldman, former SWNA President, Marc Weiss, and SEU President and Councilmember, Dr. Charlene Drew Jarvis.



SWNA Chair Margaret Feldman and S.E.U. VP, Joe Drew.

Southwest may call EPA Administrator Carol Browner at 260-2090 or GSA Administrator David Barram at 708-5082. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton's office, 225-8050, may also be called for assistance.

Street Signs and Markers

The DHCD is currently funding

the National Capital Planning Commission, the D. C. Department of Public Works, Design Research, and the D. C. Heritage Tourism Coalition to plan major streetscape improvements, public information signs and historic markers, and neighborhood tours.

Street Changes

Regarding changes in street and traffic patterns, merging Water Street with M Street at the traffic circle in order to present water views to motorists would take a huge public works endeavor. SW's isolation from the rest of the city would be partially solved by the restoration of 4th Street. Both of these street reconstructions will take 10 years to complete. City planner, Dick Westbrook, assured citizens that

cutting through the Mall would be practical and resources are available to do so. The Harvard Design Studio could give advice on how to carry out

the project; the community might want to use the \$100,000 for that purpose, assuming that Mr. Bresler agrees.

Charter Schools and Technology Centers

Charter schools housed in the Waterside Mall should provide education on a level with private schools. Dr. Joseph Drew, Vice-President of Southeastern University (SEU), announced that SEU is working hard and rapidly to establish the Southwest Family

Technology Center and the Workforce Readiness Institute for D.C.; this is the first order of business for Dr. Charlene Drew Jarvis, SEU's President. The SEU is cooperating with two charter schools, the Washington Math Science Technology Public Charter High School and the Cesar Chavez Public Policy Charter High School, as a "good neighbor". Dr. Drew urged interested parties to call him at 488-8162.

Dr. Rice Spoke

Dr. Beryl Rice, former President of the SWNA, commented that she is impressed with all that is happening in the community and that she hopes the SWNA will follow up on all the plans that are in the "works". The SWNA exists to monitor and initiate issues for the good of the community. ■

Low-Cost Summer Camp Available for Youth 7-15

Family and Child Services of Washington operates a Summer Camp, called Camp Moss Hollow, which is accepting a limited number of applications for children and youth (ages 7 to 15) from families in our Community. The camp is located 78 miles west of Washington. The program includes swimming, canoeing, arts and crafts, overnight camping in tents, hiking, nature study, team sports and educational games. There are openings in sessions running from June 29 to July 10, July 13 to July 24 and July 27 to August 7.

Fees are on a sliding scale based on family income. They cover the cost of lodging, food, insurance and most program activities. There is no fee for children of TANF recipients. Persons interested should contact Lawrence Winters at the Collaborative Office, 543-3535. ■

Merchant's Corner**New addition to Waterside Mall**

BLACK DIAMOND COMPUTERS! Services range from reconditioning to upgrading with a full listing of computer products from Motherboards to CD-ROMs. So stop by and welcome them to the neighborhood. Grand Opening celebration scheduled June 27-28, 1998. ■

Leon Fields to Be Honored

The Cavalier Athletic/Benevolent Club, Inc. is going to host a dinner dance in honor of Leon (Rub) Fields. Here is a man who has done so much for Southwest. Soon it will be his time to be saluted. The date is, Friday, July 17, 1998 at the Fort McNair Officer's Club, 4th and P St., SW at 6:30. The donation is \$25.00. ■

Southeastern University - A Good Neighbor

by Dr. Joseph Drew

Southeastern University is ready, willing, and anxious to work with the neighborhood, an official of the university said at the May 4 meeting of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly. "Dr. Charlene Drew Jarvis has made it the university's first order of business," reported Dr. Joseph Drew, Vice President. "We wish to be the best possible neighbor," he said. Dr. Drew laid out a multiple set of activities for community-university cooperation.

First, the university will be opening the Southwest Family Technology Center in partnership with the Workforce Readiness Institute. The site will be on the Second Floor of the Waterside Mall. "This is going to be a state-of-the-art facility," said Dr. Drew. "We are setting as a major focus the technology needs of this community," he said. He invited Southwesterners to visit the Center, upgrade their skills on the computer, and learn advanced information science. Although it is anticipated that this will be the center for technology for residents of the entire city, he emphasized that the first priority of the university for the Center is to be of assistance to residents of the neighborhood. He asked interested neighbors to serve on a neighborhood support board for the new center.

Second, Dr. Drew invited neighbors to use the new Internet Room in the library of the main campus at Sixth and I Streets, SW. He said that the university had received a grant to create the Internet Room and welcomed all who wish to use it to come for instruction and general use.

Third, he indicated that the university will be working closely with a wide range of charter schools and other educational organizations anxious to locate in the neighborhood of the university. He said that cooperation between universities, secondary schools, and communities proves to be of benefit to all.

Fourth, he listed a variety of additional initiatives that the university was taking on to be of service to the community and called for local residents to support the university. He said that the university hopes that the result will be economic benefits as well as educational and social advances for all.

Dr. Drew ended by praising both the initiatives undertaken by Dr. Jarvis on behalf of the community and the outstanding work of the SWNA, especially under the historic leadership of Dr. Margaret Feldman and Dr. Marc Weiss. ■

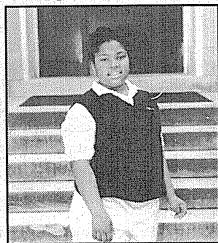
Youth



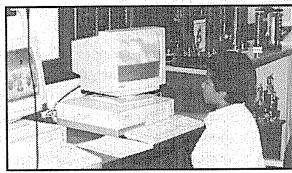
Jefferson Jr. High's 7th graders visited Congresswoman Norton and toured the Capitol building.



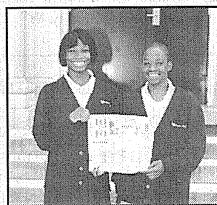
Jefferson's 1997-98 National Junior Beta Club inductees



Nija Hepburn-Nelson, 7th grader at Jefferson Jr. won first place in the national essay contest sponsored by "Do The Right Thing."



Aaron Hines, 8th grader at Jefferson Jr. won the media category of the History Fair



Monique Norton and **Tal-madge Nowden** are recipients of scholarships from "10 Who Are 10."

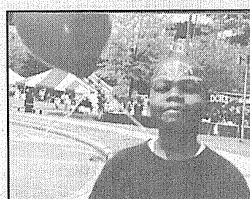


Builders of winning solar-powered cars show their creations, with coach **Joseph Teach**.

DCHA fair at King Greenleaf Field



A Clown and balloons for the kids.



A row of tents marks the spot.



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Marguerite Gilstrap's Poem Set to Music at the Renwick by Rod Ross



Marguerite Gilstrap and Marshall Ocker confer at the Renwick prior to the DC premier of *On the Occasion of Albert's 70th Birthday*.

On Sunday afternoon, April 19, Southwest resident Marguerite Gilstrap traveled to the Renwick Gallery where she heard for the first time her poem Note from an Old Soul (a.k.a. On the Occasion of Albert's 70th Birthday) sung by soprano Catherine Verilli to music by Marshall Ocker. The poem, presented to Albert St. Denis at a party in 1992 celebrating his 70th birthday, read as follows: Be not afraid. Age has its blessings.

*Those of us blazing a trail in time
find as we approach another vista
age has not withered our zest for life.
We're freed from ancient drives,
We've come to revere the ordinary.
We delight in laughing at ourselves.
We're awed by the gifts and energy of
the young.
We share the anguish of those in pain,
for we and they are enmeshed in a net-
work of grace, trust, and love.*

Marshall Ocker, a composer and arranger now retired from CBS, asked permission of Gilstrap to set the poem to music and change the title. The work was first performed in a recital of contemporary music at the University of Maryland in November 1995. The Renwick concert, at which Ocker and Gilstrap met in person for the first time, was part of a concert of New American Music by the Friday Morning Music Club Composer's Group.

Less than a month later, ninety-one year old Gilstrap told friends of her intention to relocate to a retirement community near Cleveland to be near family members. Her new address will be:

Marguerite Gilstrap
28575 Westlake Village Drive,
Apt B114
Westlake, OH 44145

A resident of Washington since 1944, and an original member of the River Park cooperative in Southwest since 1963, Gilstrap was born and raised in the Arkansas Ozarks, 35 miles southeast of Fayetteville. She entered the University of Arkansas, from

which she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education - at the insistence of her father - notwithstanding her desire to become a writer.

In 1948, she joined the Women's National Press Club (later renamed the Washington Press Club) and was elected to various offices in that organization. Since the Washington Press Club later merged with the all-male National Press Club, Gilstrap is on the verge of becoming a celebrated "Golden Owl" with that

Washington powerhouse.

She retired from the Federal Government at the end of 1966. This meant that she was free to join anti-war peace marches. Also, she traveled around the world with stops in Japan, Hong Kong, the Philippines, India, and Israel. In the years immediately prior to her mother's death in 1974, she spent winters in Kansas with her mother. From 1969 through 1971 she served on the River Park Board of Directors. In her "retirement" Gilstrap became a Washington volunteer on public policy issues for the National Board of the YWCA. For three years, from 1979 to 1982, she worked for Green Thumb (the first Federally-funded program for older workers) and traveled around the country visiting projects, writing a history, and producing a video-documentary.

She expects to leave Washington at the end of May to move to an apartment in a suburb to the west of Cleveland where she'll be within a few minutes drive from a niece and nephew-by-marriage. ■

Funding contd from page 1

merchants, and so much more.

As I like to say, it is the community bulletin board of Southwest Washington. Individuals, businesses, area boards and anyone else who enjoys reading The Southwester is encouraged to send a check in support of the paper. We ask that you mail the check to: *The Southwester*, Post Office Box 70131, Washington, DC 20024. Your donation is tax-exempt. If you have any funding ideas, call 202/488-9157 and leave a message after the beep, someone will return your phone call. ■

**Help Support Your Paper. Advertise in
*The Southwester***

Training for Employment in Washington

by Cathy Wallace

Training Center in Far Southwest, DC: The Job Corps is a free training program. A high school diploma is not necessary, but you must be between the ages of 16 through 24. It is a chance to learn a business or trade, earn a GED, and get a good job.

The Potomac Center, located in DC Village in Far Southwest provides training in the following areas: culinary arts, security, business and clerical, word processing, accounting, data entry, cosmetology and health occupations. In addition, construction trades are taught in carpentry, brick masonry, plumbing, electrical wiring, painting, building and apartment maintenance, plastering, and landscaping.

Job Corps provides total support. While enrolled in the program students are supported with dental and medical care, work clothing, social and recreational programs and counseling. Some centers also provide day care for

students who are mothers.

For further information, call the Southwest Center at 202-574-5000 or the headquarters offices at 2002-724-7080. The downtown office is located at 500 C Street, NW, room 341.

Third and Eats is a culinary arts training program sponsored by Community Family Life Services whose candidates must be 18 years or older. Although a high school diploma is not necessary, reading and writing skills are necessary. The free program provides training in cooking for restaurant, entry level positions. The course is for four months with hands-on training and classroom study, as well.

The next training program will begin July 27. Interested candidates should call for an appointment for orientation. Phone Jeannine Sanford at 202-347-1577, ext. 331. ■

League contd from page 1

islation before it is sent to Congress for final approval. The Council also continues to have oversight and confirmation functions.

Mayoral responsibilities under the Home Rule Charter have been temporarily limited, but it is vital for voters to select a candidate who can carry out these responsibilities effectively because there is a chance that the temporary limitations will be removed before the end of the next mayoral term. Moreover, during the next mayoral term, 1999 through 2002, District of Columbia taxpayers will spend an estimated \$8 million to fund the Office of the Mayor.

We can all be better informed voters by knowing the following:

1. What the duties and responsibilities are of the positions to be filled?
2. Whether or not candidates know the issues of importance to the community?
3. What the candidates intend to do about the issues?

4. The time frame in which candidates expect to fulfill election promises.

The League recommends that community organizations and ad hoc groups conduct voter education workshops. The League has published a 1998 Election Handbook which explains voter responsibilities. A limited number of copies are available from Grace Savage, Call 554-3474, for further information.

The League and collaborating organizations held a meeting Saturday, April 25, at the First Baptist Church. Speakers were Barry Campbell, formerly Mayor Barry's Chief of Staff, and Matthew Watson, former District of Columbia Auditor. The speakers emphasized the importance of voter turnout, but also mentioned other methods of showing that we are concerned. Southwest residents attending the meeting were Margaret Feldman, Anna Marsh, Betty Nyangoni, Beryl Rice, and Grace Savage. ■

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Smithson's RESTAURANT

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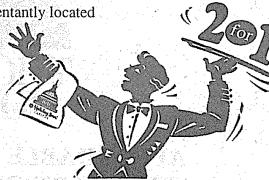
Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Smithson's Restaurant is conveniently located on the lobby-level of the Holiday Inn Capitol... just one block from the National Air and Space Museum.

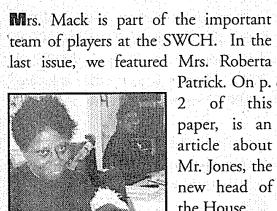
Valid seven nights a week from 5:00 PM until 10:00 PM!
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Food Coordinator at Southwest Community House

by Gloria Hamilton



Mrs. Delores Mack,
Food Co-ordinator for the
Southwest Community
House.

Mrs. Mack is part of the important team of players at the SWCH. In the last issue, we featured Mrs. Roberta Patrick. On p. 2 of this paper, is an article about Mr. Jones, the new head of the House.

Mack, as she is called by everyone, is the type of person from "The Old School." She seems to know what

you need before you get to ask. Make no mistake, when it comes to your needs (or anyone in your family), she goes beyond her job to help.

Here are some of the few things which Mack does that make her special.

- Helps with personal matters.
- Helps with things concerning bills, food stamps, utilities, etc.
- Helps with funerals and cooking for the "After Pass."

She is there to do the things that some people would like to do but don't have the time.

She keeps her food volunteers very busy. Volunteer Angel Collins says, "Mack is the type of person that always appreciates any volunteer work which you do for the community." ■

Air Force Association Award

The Thomas W. Anthony Chapter of the Air Force Association held its Women of Distinction and Community Leaders Dinner on April 3. A beautiful poem was written and delivered by Margaret Oliver on behalf of the event. Dr. Beryl C. Rice was a 1998 Air Force Association hon-

oree who was also recognized for her dedicated service to the Southwest Community of Washington. Longtime Air Force Association member, Natalie Desmond was honored for 1998. She has given many hours of work to the association and to the Southwest. ■

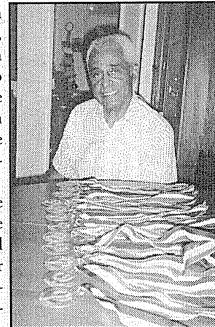
Walter Brooks Brings Home the Gold In "Golden Olympics"

A lifelong athlete in many sports, Walter Brooks again brought fame to Southwest when he carried off a dozen gold medals for his age group in D.C.'s Golden Olympics.

Starting with free throw and "Round the World" basketball competition in Burr gym at Howard University, the competitors moved to Greene Stadium for track and field events, where Brooks earned medals in the 50 yard, 100 yard, broad jump, shot put, and golf ball throw.

Golf competition shifted to Langston Golf Course at 26th and Benning Road, N.E., where Brooks competed in the chipping contest and 18 hole round, earning medals again.

In swimming events in the Burr



Walter Brooks, senior athlete, with a dozen gold medals he won this year in the D.C. Recreation Department's Golden Olympic games held in the middle of May.

pool at Howard U, Brooks swam the 25 yd. free style, 25 yd. back stroke and 25 yd. breast stroke. Tennis and bowling competitions were scheduled for the same hour as the swimming events, or Brooks might have competed there, too.

Finally he entered the horseshoe pitching contest held at Banneker Community Center at 2500 Georgia Ave. N.W. and brought home another gold.

The competition is by 5-year age groups - separately for men and women - starting at age 55 and continuing beyond 90. Walter Brooks has been in the Golden Olympics on through several of the age groups. He points out that there is less and less competition as the years go by.

The Senior Services Division of the D.C. Recreation Department is at 202-567-8677. ■

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Yard Sale On Fourth Street

The Fourth Street Neighborhood Group will hold its Third Annual Yard Sale along Fourth Street between M and P from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 6. In addition to residents of each housing complex, community organizations are invited to participate.

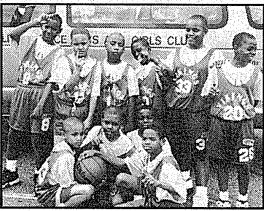
Each community or organization sets its own rules and activities. A portion of the Riverside Condominium's proceeds go to the Southwest Branch Library, the Southwest Scholarship Fund and other neighborhood projects. Groups interested in joining the yard sale should contact Jane Boorman at Riverside Condominium, telephone: 488-3792.

The Fourth Street Neighborhood Group is an informal association of homeowners who live in the condominiums and cooperatives along Fourth Street, SW, between M and P Streets. Formed in 1994, it meets each fourth Wednesday to share information about the many challenges, activities and initiatives affecting our neighborhood's quality of life as well as to pursue efforts to enhance the image, appearance and property values in our Southwest Waterfront area.

Participants are from Riverside, Edgewater, River Park, Channel Square, Carrolsburg — A Condominium, Carrolsburg Square Condominium, Tiber Island Cooperative, Tiber Island Condominium and Harbour Square. ■



Baseball season has started for Club #4 athletes, who compete against teams from other Metropolitan Police boys and girls clubs and recreation centers. Back row (left to right) Coach Wyatt Green, Carl Marris, Warren Gamble, Radford Ferguson, Jeffery Ulmer, Coach Hines. Middle row (left to right) Coach Busta, Kenneth Collins, Patrick Allen, Devin Yedell, Nathaniel Waldron, Letheo Proctor, Rodney Lawrence. Front row (left to right) George Washington, behind DeWarren Mathews, James King, Rico Hines, Nathaniel Ulmer, Antonio Smith.



Club #4's basketball team in Florida for the Police Athletic League tournament. They drove from Washington D.C. in this van.



Club #4's basketball team got to sample the ocean in Florida.

Black No More

by Wally Babington



Isabell Monk as Sister Sisicetta Blandish and **Mary Fortuna** as Nurse.

Arena Stage has made a concerted effort over the years to present plays that portray the black experience in America in a variety of settings. Some have been successful - others not. But the productions have always been well intentioned and of high quality artistically and technically. The final production this season, *Black No More*, is designed to explore racism and bigotry within a humorous frame, using satire to attack American attitudes on race, sex, politics and religion. That's formidable responsibility for one lone play.

Black No More has been adapted by playwright Syl Jones from a controversial 1931 novella by George Schuyler. The plot centers around a young African American during the Depression years who tires of a life of poverty and despair. In an effort to improve his situation, he makes use of a new invention called the Erace-o-lator, which is "guaranteed to turn the darkest colored man white as a sheet." It is with that premise that an epic journey begins that takes the young man through episodes of religion, politics, economics, medicine, romance, etc.

The humor and satire are drawn with broad strokes. The evening is like an extended vaudeville show that moves rapidly from one skit to the next - with only the vaguest connecting story line. It is in a sense farcical and satirical - but it isn't subtle enough to be so classified. It is truly vaudeville: loud and brassy, with periodic punch lines designed to produce laughter, shock, applause. A few attempts are made to bring the story up-to-date with references to Stevie Wonder, Clarence Thomas and Marion Barry.

I have tried to determine some way to discuss my reaction to this play in an objective, detached manner - without revealing my personal, subjective, emotional reaction. However, this is not really possible for me. I have to say that I found the play offensive and insulting. I am an old fashioned 1940s middle class liberal who cannot find humor in lynching and the casual use of ethnic, racial and religious epithets. They are just not a source of humor for me. I found the evening less and less funny as the hours went by. It seems such a waste of talent and resources. The combined energy and expertise of three theater groups (Arena, Gutherie and Mixed Blood) could be put to better use in an effort to make us face up to our prejudices.

It might be worth the effort to attend a discussion of the play after seeing it. Such an opportunity will present itself on Sunday, May 31, 2:30 to 4:30 PM in the Old Var Room at Arena. At that time a panel discussion on issues of race and humor will be held. The event is free but reservations are required. Call the box office at 488-3300.

Black No More by Syl Jones at Arena Stage until June 7. ■

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Syl Jones Tazewell Thompson

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for performances now through May 31st!

presented in a world premiere co-production with the
Guthrie Theater, in association with Mixed Blood Theatre Company

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Wendell Wright photo by Stan Barouh

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